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To  
THE FIRST GENTLEMAN IN IRELAND AND  
THE MOST GRACIOUS

960750



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## THE COMING BACK

*To the Lord MacDonnell*

WHEN I came back to Ireland the leaves on the tree,  
The birds on the branches would keep reminding me,  
With, *don't you remember? and could you forget?*  
Till I'm living and walking in the old times yet.

The wind from the mountains it blows fresh and strong :  
*Ah, don't you remember?* is still the wind's song.  
With, *don't you remember? and could you forget?*  
As I went out a-walking 'twas the dead that I met.

There's a road runs to Wicklow : it goes past the door.  
The dust of it's holy for feet it once bore.  
They've all travelled Westward where the sun doesn't  
set.  
*Ah, don't you remember? and could you forget?*

The blackbird he's mocking from the apple-bough :  
*Sure why would you trouble to be coming now*  
*When them that sore missed you is past fear and fret?*  
*Ah, don't you remember? and could you forget?*

There's not a flower in Ireland, there isn't a hill,  
Nor yet a breath of the Four Winds but keeps reminding  
still,  
Till my poor heart is troubled and my eyes are wet  
For *don't you remember?* and *could you forget?*



## EPIPHANY

*To Rudolph Mary John O'Riordan*

THE Kings have brought Him ambergris,  
The Babe, whose one delight it is  
    To creep and nest  
In the warm snows of Mother's breast.

The Kings have brought Him frankincense,  
Who hath no need, this Innocence,  
    Of aught beside  
His Mother's milk in a full tide.

O'er Mother's breast His fingers go,  
Constraining that sweet stream to flow,  
    So soft and small,  
To whom that milky world is all.

The Kings have brought Him gold and myrrh,  
This new-born thing whose Heaven's in her ;  
    To make His bed  
In the sweet place from which He fed.

Myrrh, spikenard, such precious things,  
The Kings have brought the King of Kings,  
    Who, dronken-deep,  
Falls like a full-fed lamb asleep.

## THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

*To the Lord Kilbracken*

I WOULD choose to be a doorkeeper  
In the House of the Lord  
Rather than lords and ladies  
In satin on the sward.  
To draw the bolts for the white souls  
Would be my rich reward :  
And I the happy doorkeeper  
To the House of the Lord.

Of all troop in not one comes out  
From the House of the Lord,  
Those who have won from sin and death,  
From age and grief abhorred.  
There is more room within its courts  
Than palaces afford ;  
So great it is and spacious  
In the House of the Lord.

They come with shining faces  
To the House of the Lord ;  
The broken hearts and weary  
That life has racked and scored :

They come hurrying and singing  
To sit down at His board,  
They are young and they are joyful  
In the House of the Lord.

There are lilies and daisies  
In the House of the Lord.  
The lover finds his lover  
With a long, long regard.  
The mothers find the children,  
Strayed from their watch and ward.  
O the meetings and the greetings  
In the House of the Lord !

I would be a humble doorkeeper  
In the House of the Lord,  
Where the courts are white and shining  
In the Light of the Word.  
When the saved souls come trooping  
For the gates to be unbarred,  
O blessed is the doorkeeper  
In the House of the Lord !

## THE MOUNTAINS

*To my Father*

I HEARD them talk of the mountains,  
The kind and innocent folk :  
Something troubled the fountains  
The grief in my heart awoke.

My heart was a heart that broke ;  
Something troubled the fountains ;  
The grief in my heart awoke  
When they talked of the mountains.

Over the mountain blue,  
By the fields and the winding boreen,  
I walked and I talked with you  
In days that are over, asthoreen.

We walked together, asthoreen,  
When the blackbird sang in the dew ;  
As we talked by the fields and the boreen  
My heart was a bird that flew.

Now it is heavy as lead,  
No matter how fine the weather ;  
It falls like a thing stone-dead  
That once was light as a feather.

We walked and we talked together,  
And pleasant the things we said :  
The larks sprang out of the heather.  
Och, many's the tear I've shed !

The kind and innocent people  
Discourse of the mountains still.  
I think of a low grey steeple  
And the graves lying under the hill.

Ochone—these Summers are chill !  
They were meaning nothing, the people.  
My heart went crying its fill  
For a new grave under the steeple.

## ANY WIFE

NOBODY knows but you and I, my dear,  
And the stars, the spies of God, that lean and peer,  
Those nights when you and I in a narrow strait  
Were under the whips of God and desolate.  
In extreme pain, in uttermost agony.  
We bore the cross for each other, you and I,  
When, through the darkest hour, the night of dread,  
I suffered and you supported my head.

Ties that bind us together for life and death,  
Oh, hard-set fight in the darkness, shuddering breath,  
Because a man can only bear as he may,  
And find no tears for easing, the woman's way.  
Anguish of pity, sharp in the heart like a sword :  
Dost Thou not know, O Lord ? Thou knowest, Lord,  
What we endured for each other : our wounds were red  
When he suffered and I supported his head.

Grief that binds us closer than smile or kiss,  
Into the pang God slips the exquisite bliss.

You were my angel and I your angel, as he,  
The angel, comforted Christ in His agony,  
Lifting Him up from the earth that His blood made wet,  
Pillowing the holy head, dabbled in sweat.  
Thou who wert under the scourges knowest to prove  
Love by its pangs, love that endures for love.



## THE LITTLE HOUSE

*To Alice Meynell*

I WILL have a little house  
When the children are flown.  
The feel of a big house  
Would be cold as a stone ;  
A house full of emptiness  
And we two alone.

But in a little house  
We could creep to the blaze ;  
We could warm our old hearts  
With the thought of old days ;  
Him and me together  
When the firelight plays.

There would hardly be room  
For the ghosts to come in :  
Ghosts of the little children  
Who made a merry din,  
Long ago and long ago  
When I was a queen.

I will have a little garden  
Big enough for two,  
Where we can walk together  
When the skies are blue,  
Talking the good days over  
And how fast they flew.

The littlest house and garden  
For him and me just.  
And all the sweet times we had  
Withered to dust.  
A big house would break my heart  
For the children lost.

## THE MIST THAT'S OVER IRELAND

*To Ronald Ross*

THERE'S a mist that's over Ireland where the blackbird  
calls,

And when you come it's risin' and when you go it falls.  
It's made of green and silver and the rain and dew,  
And the finest sun is over it you ever knew.

Och, sure it isn't mist at all, except a mist o' tears,  
A haze of love and longin' for the happy years,  
When myself that's old and fretted now and colder than  
the stone

Was young in golden Ireland with the friends long gone.

The mist is like a curtain that the wind'll blow  
And lift a little wisp of it till you see below  
The shiningest country ever was of hills and streams,  
And the people do be haunting you in lonesome dreams.

The people do be in the mist, their like's hard to  
find,  
Their faces full of welcome and their smile soft and  
kind.  
It was little I was thinkin' in the days that ran away  
How I'd sit and break my heart for them one weary day.

It isn't fields and mountains and it isn't streams and  
trees,  
Though all o' them is in the mist, nor hummin' of the  
bees,  
Nor yet the thrush and blackbird could vex me as I stand  
And look the way of Ireland with my head in my hand.

'Tis little that we value them, when we're gay and  
young ;  
We think we'll have them with us, our whole lives long.  
We never know the good we have till constant friends  
depart  
And leave us just with half a life and half a heart.

There's a gold mist over Ireland that for me will never  
rise,  
And some is walkin' in it was the light of my eyes.

They're never old and troubled now, and never sick and sad.

The days we had together were the best I had.

Please God, some day that's comin', when the dread of death 's past,

And I take the lonesome valley we all must take at last,  
I'll sight the hills of Heaven and the people in white,  
And you, and you, among them was my heart's delight.

The mist that's over Ireland will be blowin' in my face ;  
I'll reach the other side of it to the well-remembered place,

And I'll not be lookin' backward like a lonesome ghost  
From the mist that's over Ireland and the friends I lost.

## THE MEETING

*To Ada Tyrrell*

As I went through the ancient town,  
Long lost and found once more,  
Oh, who is this in a green gown  
I knew so well of yore ?

Veils of enchantment hid the place,  
Hung every street and square :  
I felt the sea-wind in my face  
And ruffling in my hair.

Oh town I loved so well and lost,  
And find again with tears,  
Your streets hold many a darling ghost  
And all the vanished years !

My heart went singing a low song,  
Glad to be home again.  
But who is this comes blithe and young,  
Not feared of life but fain ?

Oh, who is this comes cold as stone  
To my quick cry and call ?  
Of all the faces loved and flown  
I knew her best of all.

“ Stay, you are . . . ” Is she deaf and blind  
Or hath she quite forgot ?  
What chill is in the sun, the wind,  
Because she knows me not ?

As I went down—my eyes were wet—  
Eager and stepping fast  
That was my own sweet youth I met  
Who knew me not and passed.

## FEBRUARY IN LONDON

*To A. H. Bullen*

THE grey streets of London are sweeter than the rose,  
The grey streets of London when the West Wind blows.  
The wild wind, the fresh wind, brings home the Spring  
again  
And I turn my face to meet her in the softest rain.

The tired folk and busy they put their cares away  
With : Never mind to-morrow since life is good to-day.  
They are wondering what ails them, the West Wind  
blows so sweet,  
With a flash of green and silver in the saddest street.

There's dappled sky above us if the smoke would let  
us see.  
In dingy squares and crescents there's a thrush upon  
the tree.  
The rain like little fingers comes with a soft surprise  
And is smoothing out the wrinkles round the weary eyes.



The rain and the West Wind that set the flowers to start  
They wash the grime from off the soul, the grief from  
the heart.

And who would you be meeting as you walk the murky  
town

But Spring that's like a daffodil in a golden gown ?

The girls beside the pavements they carry golden store  
Of wallflowers and hyacinths and violets galore.

The soft speech of Limerick I heard as I went by  
And the blue eyes of Ireland were like a glint of sky.

The West Wind is blowing on people stepping light.

They wonder what is on them ; they feel so queer and  
bright.

The softest rain is falling, and while the West Wind blows  
The grey streets of London are sweeter than the rose.

## LULLABY

AFTER THE RUSSIAN

*To Katharine Ross*

God the Father gave thee me,  
Jesus Christ presented thee.

Mary that's without a stain  
Brought thee to my window-pane,

Nursing thee, so little and good,  
Under her hair and her blue hood.

"Olga," said the blessed one,  
"Take thou him and call him John.

Call him, from the Baptist, John,  
And him who was my second son."

Blessed Mary tossed me thee  
As a young rose from a young tree.

“For all he is so soft and small  
He will be thy man and tall.”

Said Mother Mary : “Olga, take him ;  
With thy milky bosom slake him.

See he sleeps when he is fed  
Lest he cry uncomforted.”

Mary Mother in Heaven’s joy  
Took so great thought for my boy.

“When thou goest to the well  
Linger not to gossip and tell.

When thou goest to the shop  
Loiter not lest he wake up,

And peace in Heaven be undone  
Because a child cries all alone.”

Sleep now, little John, that playest.  
Christ be with thee where thou strayest

In the most sweet fields of sleep  
Where He leads His lambs and sheep.

When the time comes thou shalt rise  
With loveliest dreams in quiet eyes.

Sleep steals at even-fall  
Along the bench, beside the wall.

While fade in dreams father and mother  
Sleep and weariness kiss each other.

Drowsiness in sleepy streams  
Falls like rain or the moonbeams.

Sleep says : "Give me the child" :  
Hushes thee at her breast so mild.

"Sleep," she breathes, "lie still and warm,  
Little John, in the bend o' my arm."

Drowsiness at the small ear  
Whispers, "I am sleepy, dear."

Drowsiness in a grey veil  
And Sleep like the moon pale

Kneel beside thy cradle stirred ;  
And the bee's asleep and the bird.

The angels keeping watch  
By the pane, lifting the latch,

Ask if thou sleepest sweet—  
Little eyes, little hands, little feet.

## REPROACH

*To Father Russell.*

WHEN I came back to Ireland 'twas little I knew  
The sorrow was waiting for me in the good year's  
gloom.

You who were always tender, was it kind of you  
To be up and going your lonesome road and I barely  
come ?

It was not like you, O kindest one, to go in such haste !  
Barely to say " You are welcome home " and then  
to be gone.

A little glance and a word of love, and you stepping fast  
Over the brink of the Autumn world after the sun.

If I had known, O kindest one, and I full of joy !  
How soon my land would be empty of you, losing  
your light,  
Could I have come, singing my songs, like a girl or a boy,  
And the black desolation beyond and the wintry  
night ?

That was the one unkindness you showed me, my dear ;  
 And I so glad of the mountains and fields and the  
 friends of old :

For you to be turning your back on me in my wonderful  
 year,

Taking the light and comfort with you, leaving me  
 cold.

## THE WOUNDS

*To Lady Grosvenor*

GOD'S Son had Wounds Five  
To save men's souls alive.

Five Wounds, five Joys, Heartsease,  
That spring for man's release.

The First Wound it pierced and struck  
The hand that blessed and broke.

The Second stabbed with cruel smart  
The hand was next His heart.

Of the Third Wound what shall be said  
Wherewith His side was red ?

An Heavenly House, a Rosy Ark  
To house men from the dark.

The Fourth and Fifth His feet did keep  
That followed after His sheep



Nailed to the Cross lest they should press  
On their high business.

The Wounds of Love they throbbed and bled ;  
In Heaven they are not stayed.

In Heaven they are red roses five  
That save men's souls alive.

Five roses on a heavenly tree  
And Christ's men shall go free.

Five roses, crimson-dyed  
In His hands, in His feet, in His side.

Five roses set between  
God's anger and man's sin.

## THE CONFLICT

*To Father Edmund Lester, S. J.*

O MARY, Queen, and God's Mother,  
In Jesu's Name I pray.  
Thy heart had seven sad swords, Mother,  
The which was thy Son's stay.  
Now that my little son must fight  
And dragons overthrow ;  
O Mother of the World's Delight,  
Arm him before he go.

For all thy seven-fold wounds, Mother,  
And for thy joys full-five,  
Keep him within thy bounds, Mother,  
And save his soul alive.  
For thy Son's sake who could not sin  
Send Michael to his aid,  
That ere the deadly jousts begin  
My son be not dismayed.

Yea, make him thine own knight, Mother,  
With sword of living flame.

His banners all of white, Mother,  
    To bear thy spotless name.  
O set thy lilies on his shield,  
    The which the beast must dread.  
Sit thou above the tourney-field  
    To crown the victor's head.

But if he faint and fall, Mother,  
    Be thou the first to run.  
And in the sight of all, Mother,  
    Lift him, my little son.  
Yea, let his last sight be of thee,  
    His fight be not in vain,  
His last shout be of victory  
    Although himself be slain.

## THE PHILOSOPHER

*To John O'Mahony*

WHEN I came back to Ireland from a foreign shore,  
The stress of money-gettin' had made me sick and sore.  
Och, foolishness of people, when no man needs to have,  
And be he lord or peasant, but at last a grave.

Their land was thick with churches : aye, many spires  
on spires.

The people, lookin' sorry, in cities and in shires,  
Were readin' of their Bibles : one text they missed, be  
sure :

“The poor are always with you !” Ah, God help the  
poor !

They haven't too much honour over there, I find.  
The country where small money is is better to my mind.  
They don't be dramin' money and a man has got the  
time

To look at seas and mountains and to turn a rhyme.

They're neighbourly in Ireland, and if they've little store  
They'd share it with a neighbour and there's still the  
open door.

For him that turns the poor away may turn away unfed  
The very Son of God Himself as He begs for bread.

They won't be makin' money of the water and the land.  
Plase God they'll learn no stintin', but keep the open  
hand,

And what they lose they're savin' and what they give  
they hold.

Ah, God help the foolish people with the yellow gold !

There's never any hurry here : there's always time to  
say

" God save you kindly ! " as we go, and pass the time  
of day ;

To smoke a pipe beside the fire, or may be in the sun,  
And be holdin' kind discourses of the friends that's gone.

The sun upon your shoulders will warm you through  
and through ;

And souls are more than bodies in the place we're travel-  
lin' to.

Och, take a sate, my travelled man, the sunny side the  
ditch,

And be lavin' money-makin' to the foolish rich !

## SHANGANAGH

*To Mrs. Rowan Hamilton*

LAUGHS the darling river, hurrying, dancing onward.

Sorrow she knows of maybe, the bird's or the bee's,  
Or some butterfly weary, its wings dropped downward,  
Caught in a swirling eddy, drowned in her seas.

Maybe the hedge-sparrow, maybe the starling,

Hath lost here some sweet thing of its downy brood.  
Never lamb or kid or any woman's darling  
Hath she thought of drowning in her wildest mood.

From her golden bed, set with many a jewel,

No white face starts upward, piteous to the skies ;  
None hath sought here rest from sweet love grown cruel,  
Hiding a sad secret from the mocking eyes.

Bare she lies to Heaven 'mid her mints and cresses,

Innocent of evil as a lamb or a child.  
The sun and stars love her and the wind caresses,  
Ruffling her little waters so soft and wild.

As she slips away by a mossy boulder

    The child dips a rosy foot where she foams and swirls,  
Shows her a darling cheek and a dimpled shoulder,  
    Laughs to see his face in her, set in its curls.

Here the lamb drinks deep without fear or fretting :

    There are no wolves, no danger, for child or lamb ;  
Only the Angels of God that are never forgetting  
    Keep the child for his mother, the lamb for his dam.

## THE WINTER GARDEN

*To Lady Harrel*

THE Winter Garden lies at rest,  
The clay upon her brows and breast,  
The winding sheet drawn to her chin,  
Her eyes blue the lids within.

The Winter Garden grieved and pined,  
Alone, out in the rain and wind,  
Until she fell asleep, so pure  
A quiet sleeper, still, demure.

They heaped her shroud with rose and myrtle.  
Lilies, carnations strewed her kirtle ;  
Her kirtle of the green is on  
Under the cere-cloth, straight and wan.

Sleeping she hath within her arms  
The wild songs and the soft charms.  
The butterfly by her is laid,  
The bee streaked in her chilly bed.



A day will come, a day and hour  
Of a wild hope and a warm shower ;  
And a voice crying in bush and brake :  
“The maid sleepeth : Daughter, awake.”

The Winter Garden then will rise,  
Cast the clay from mouth and eyes ;  
Her eyes will be the eyes of a bride,  
The King's Daughter be glorified.

In her green kirtle she will show,  
Scattering blossoms she will go :  
She shall trip it on a green hill,  
With the wind-flower and the daffodil.

Alone—withouten leaf or bud,  
What wild dreams stir in her blood ?  
Under her hood what dream of mirth  
Of a new Heaven and a new earth ?

## THE OLD MAGIC

*To G. W., who sped me*

As I go down from Dalkey and by Killiney Strand  
There's something queer about the world : it's all so  
clean and new !  
As though this very minute God put it from His hand  
And soft airs of Paradise blew.

So fresh it was and shining, the sapphire seas and skies,  
The silver-misted mountains and the gorse newly gold.  
The big brown lovely headland troubles my heart and  
eyes,  
Till 'tis growing young I am, not old.

I wonder will it stay so, the years I have to live.  
With fairy people spreading their spells on sea and  
hill ;  
Their webs as fine as gossamer that fairy spinners weave ;  
And the old enchantment work its will.

'Twas worth the twenty years away to see it as I see.  
For them that sees it every day's too used to it to  
mind.  
I wonder how I stayed so long and Ireland calling me,  
And her breast so warm and kind.

## THE MAKER

*To Maude Egerton King*

God made the country,  
Man made the town.  
God clad the country  
In a green gown.

Clad her in kirtle  
Of the green silk.  
God made the country  
Of honey and milk.

Poor folk from Eden  
Driven away,  
God made the country  
For a holiday.

God gave the country  
A flower, a bird,  
To comfort His children  
For the flaming sword.

For easing and pleasing  
He made a tree,  
Many a sweet rivulet,  
Dew and the bee.

God made the country,  
Man made the town.  
Is not God a maker  
Of great renown ?

## THE STRONG FIGHT

*To the Lady Glenconner for Heartsease*

I BUILD a strong tower for the children, the children;  
With moat and portcullis I keep it still.  
The foe clangs without but within it the children  
Sleep soundly and sweetly till cock-crow shrill.

I wage a Holy War for the children, the children ;  
My hand against the world that they may live.  
I am cunning and crafty as the fox for her children,  
Wise as the serpent lest the children grieve.

I build a warm fire for the children, the children.  
To my tower oft beleaguered allies I call ;  
They shine like the sun to the eyes of the children ;  
God's men-at-arms keep us by gate and wall.

I leave in safe keeping the children, the children.  
Down to the cities my way I take,  
Past the walls and the sentry, alert for the children,  
I creep in the shadows for the children's sake.

I gather rich stores for the children, the children,  
The lowing of oxen is heard as I come :  
I carry the sheaves in my arms for the children.  
Oh, sweet on the hill-top the lights of home.

Unless the Lord build it, the house for the children,  
Unless He be with me my labour's vain.  
He has thought it and planned it, the fold for the  
children,  
Where the lambs be folded without fear or stain.

I fight the holy fight for the children, the children,  
The sons of God glorious sit down at my board.  
Though the foes hem us in, shall I fear for the children,  
Fighting the strong fight in the Name of the Lord ?

## WIND IN THE WIRES

*To Hester Sigerson*

THE south-west wind among the wires  
Plays tunes I knew of old.  
There's a blue sky above the spires,  
A blue sky and a gold.

His fingers move among the strings,  
He plays the whole day long  
On his Æolian harp the things  
I knew when I was young.

What magic mist enchants my sight,  
That I would rise and go  
With an uplifted heart and light  
The paths I used to know ?

They are all out, the lights, the fires,  
And under wind and rain  
The wind among the telegraph-wires  
Wakes the old griefs in vain.



## THE GREEN RIBBON

*To My God-Child Olivia**ALL around my hat I will wear the green ribbon, O.**All round my hat for a year and a day ;**And if anybody asks me why do I wear it**I'll say that my true love is far, far away.*

For green is the colour of the weeping willow, O,

And green is the colour for her that is true ;

Tell my love if he come not I die of my sorrow, O,

And shall sleep deep, forgetting the pangs I knew.

I shall say : " My sweet mother, make my bride-clothes  
ready, O,"

I shall say : " Little sister, weep not for me,

But clothe me in silver like a beauteous lady, O,

And hide not my face lest he come and see."

Six gentle knights to the grave will carry me,

The maids shall strew violets my face above,

They will say : " She was constant," and weep as they  
bury me,

Saying : " Here is a true maid who died of love."

O what have I to do with life and with living, O !

If he should come not I shall not know.

I shall sleep on so sweetly, done with care and grieving,

O,

Alone in my bride-bed the moulds below.

List, ye grave pilgrims, who journey to Walsingham,

Say if you meet him that his love lies sick—

Sore sick with loving and will soon be dying, O ;

If he would save her that he travel quick.

All around my hat now I wear the green ribbon, O,

So have I worn it a year and above ;

Say if he come not he will find me sleeping, O ;

With a stone at my head that I died of love.

## THE EXILE

*To Frank Mathew*

THERE are thrushes and finches in an English coppice.

All the May night the nightingales are never still.  
My heart turns and tosses on its bed of poppies,  
Desolate for the blackbird by an Irish hill.

Sweet are the English fields, dappled with blossom,  
The fine stacks of hay and corn are up to the eaves.  
Sure, why would it trouble me, the heart in my bosom  
For a lone field in Ireland where the peewit grieves ?

Ordered and pleasant is an English garden ;  
In the happy orchards the fruit hangs red.  
Still through the scented night my heart knew its  
burden  
And through the golden day ; if naught was said.

Lovely the homesteads in an English country,  
Neither change nor ruin there as time goes by.  
In a bower of roses, my heart keeping sentry  
Cried for my own country with a lonesome cry.

## THE LEPER

Not white and shining like an ardent flame,  
Not like Thy Mother and the Saints in bliss,  
But white from head to foot I bear my blame,  
White as the leper is.

Unclean ! unclean ! But Thou canst make me clean ;  
Yet if Thou cleanse me, Lord, see that I be  
Like that one grateful leper of the ten  
Who ran back praising Thee.

But if I must forget, take back Thy word ;  
Be I unclean again but not ingrate.  
Before I shall forget Thee, keep me, Lord,  
A sick man at Thy gate.

## COMPENSATION

*To Mr. Justice Ross*

'Twas worth the years of exile just to recapture  
The old delight, the wild bliss of coming back.  
I can praise God that I have tasted the rapture  
Before the night darkened upon my track.

Nigh on twenty years in a foreign city,  
And the best hour that hour in fog and rain,  
Going home, and my heart singing its ditty  
In time to the creaking screw and the throbbing train.

Oh, the yellow streets and the poor sad people  
Trudging to their task in a pallid gloom  
Below the black house-walls, under spire and steeple,  
And I for the sun at last and going home !

Sorry I was for them that weren't going,  
As though I travelled to lands where no man  
grieves.  
My love she is, my heart's delight, and her West Wind  
blowing,  
And I coming home to her, carrying my sheaves !

## GRANUAILE

*To Miriam Alexander*

THE green, oh the green, is the colour of the true.  
And when the Winter's over what shall I do  
But leave the town behind with the streets in dust and  
    mire  
And be stepping gladly Westward to my heart's desire ?

Far to the Westward my love doth reside,  
Her knees are to her forehead at coming of night-tide.  
By the shores of the ocean she prays for relief,  
That the High King of Heaven may ease her of her grief.

To the High King's Son as a bride she is dear ;  
She followed His sad fortunes through many a bitter  
    year ;  
With stripes she was scourgèd, and barefoot and poor,  
Whom the King's Son delighted in, was driven from the  
    door.

The King's Son hath dressed her in green of the sea.  
Her beauty shall be lifted as high as His Tree.  
Set on a high throne 'twixt the deep and the deep,  
She shall call home her children as He calls His sheep.

Oh, when the Winter's over what shall I do  
But follow and find her, the dear one and the true.  
I am crying my lone in the mirk and the rain,  
That the High King of Heaven may bring me home  
again.

## THE ROOM

*To Ethel Brayden*

THIS is my best hour of all,  
When the quiet evenfall  
Darkening over hill and plain  
Brings the children home again.

Garnished is the room and sweet,  
And the shaded lamp is lit.  
To the rosy firelight gather  
Three little folk from wind and weather.

All my birds have fluttered home  
To the nest in the warm gloam.  
And one roof-tree covers over  
All I love and me the lover.

In the night what foes may lurk,  
Evil shapes in the thick dark !  
But the children warm and living  
Know no sin and fear no grieving.



Three dear heads bent o'er their books,  
And what need of shepherd's crooks ?  
And what fear that lambs go straying  
Folded in with love and praying ?

Three dear children will lie warm,  
Safe from midnight and the storm ;  
With an angel by them keeping  
Guard lest aught disturb their sleeping.

Underneath my roof-tree groweth  
Herb of grace, and Heartsease bloweth,  
Pleasant places and a spring  
For the children's comforting.

There shall come an evenfall  
When no roof-tree covers all,  
When the room shall be bereaven  
And the mother of her Heaven.

In that day how sweet will rise  
Visions of lost Paradise,  
When one warm room held all treasure,  
All delight in its scant measure.

## THE TREE

*To Wilfrid Meynell*

WHEN that man was cast away  
Out of Eden for his sin,  
God put by His wrath to say :  
“ Now his sad time shall begin ;

My poor creature, made to walk  
By Me under forest trees,  
Made to walk with Me and talk  
When the evening brings much ease :

Since a tree hath him undone,  
My poor creature that I planned,  
By a Tree he shall be won,  
Given again into My Hand.”

God took up a seed of life,  
Planted it in tear-wet earth :  
“ My poor Adam and his wife  
Shall have shade and quiet mirth.

This, My tree shall grow and grow  
Till its branches fill the air ;  
Not my groves of Heaven may show  
Princely fruit as this shall bear.

Hanging head and knees, alack,  
This shall bear a noble Flower,  
And My Tree will give Me back  
What I lost by Eden bower."

## REPARATION

*To Pamela*

For that one angry word I spoke,  
And for her wild surprise,  
Through the long night, the still night,  
I watch with sleepless eyes.

In the lone hour, the dark hour  
Come back her grief and pain,  
Again, her great and frightened eyes,  
Her tears that ran like rain.

Then she was in my arms again,  
Weeping against my breast :  
In the grey house, the dim house  
It will not let me rest.

For that one wrong I did, O child  
Quick to forgive, forget,  
In the dim light, the owl's light,  
'Tis I remember yet.

## THE GREAT ADVENTURE

*To Ian Grant, R.N.*

THE sailor now is safe at home.  
Amid the fields he sighs  
For salt-sweet of the driven foam  
Upon his lips and eyes.

For now he takes his voyages  
Around his room and goes  
Far as the corner where the bees  
Hum in the guelder rose.

A belt of woodland hems him in,  
Mid miles of trees he craves  
For one clear sweep of the winds keen  
Over a world of waves.

No more he'll hear the great winds roar.  
He shall lie snug and warm,  
Who roamed the world from Labrador  
Down to the Cape of Storm.

Beside his bed, idle at last  
His chart, his compass liè :  
But he has seas untravelled, vast,  
And a chart to sail them by.

He takes his Bible in his hands—  
What gates are opening wide  
To wonderful seas, untrodden lands,  
With Christ Himself for guide ?

He hears again the splash of oars ;  
A boat's beside the quay :  
Like the great captains he adores  
He sails and sails away.

His seas are strewn with moon and stars ;  
The land he sails to find  
Welcomes the veteran from Christ's wars  
Sped on a favouring wind.

Who loved o'er mortal seas to range,—  
But there's an end of all—  
He sails the seas will never change  
With Christ for Admiral.

O what are ships of armour bright  
That lurking foes undo  
To the winged ships are in his sight  
Manned by a heaven-bound crew ?

(There is one verse he will not read—  
His glasses aye are dim—  
If there were no more sea indeed  
What lonesome heaven for him !)

His old head droops upon his breast,  
His eyes scarce see the page.  
His last adventure and his best  
Falls to his weary age.

## THE QUIET HOUSE

*To Nora*

'Tis very quiet in the house  
Without the turbulent little flock.  
The sweet hours, quiet as a mouse,  
Steal slowly round the ticking clock.  
We gather honey while we may  
When children are at school all day.

So peaceful with the song of birds,  
The water lapping on the shore ;  
But evening brings the flocks and herds  
And happy children home once more.  
Blessed the hour in sun or rain  
That brings the children home again.

'Tis very quiet in the house  
Where children come not home at all.  
The day goes stiller than a mouse ;  
Gulls and the sea-winds cry and call :  
And two old shadows by the flame  
Talk of the days when children came.



Oh, when the children are away,  
The house is very still and sweet.  
But if no evening, gold or grey,  
Brought the quick kiss, the flying feet,  
Heavily would the silence press  
The loneliness, the loneliness !

## KILLINEY BAY

*To Murrough O'Brien*

HERE's quietness for all who come,  
Rest for the weary heart and head,  
A fragrant chamber, a hid room  
With downiest pillows, softest bed.

The lucent sky, amber and azure,  
The sea, a glittering shield of light,  
And glory poured withouten measure,  
Flooding to starlight and the night.

Mountain on mountain : spear on spear :  
Brown hills that fold the singing streams.  
(How many a day, how many a year  
I had the mountains but in dreams !)

A Spirit at dawns and evenfalls  
Glides by, her finger on her lip !  
Yet there is sound : the blackbird calls,  
The poising sea-birds scream and dip.

The thin hill coppice, wild with starlings,  
Runs like a babbling stream in noise,  
Where bridegrooms chatter to their darlings  
Of house-building and nuptial joys.

The sea breaks with a lapping soft,  
Lulling to quiet deeper still.  
O silence of the sky aloft  
And silence of the heavenly hill !

Who would have quietness and rest,  
Peace for the heavy heart and head,  
Come and be gathered to a breast,  
A quiet chamber, a soft bed !

## THE COMMON

*To Mary Blackwell*

THERE are glades of gold on the Common, the Common  
now,

Pillars and arches of the shining gold.

Here's a peace, a forgetting, for tired man and woman  
now,

Fires to warm the heart at and the senses cold.

I've something to say of this Common—O wild and dear !

She hath so many beauties as I could not tell.

She hath a tricksy spirit : listen, incline your ear :

She lays all her lovers under fairy spell.

She has hills, she has hollows, she has gorse and bracken  
too,

Wild winding pathways and secret groves.

Honey of the pinewood and sweets untaken too,

Whispers and sighings for the heart that loves.

She's a fairy, a witch, oh gamesome, the shining one !

She changes her face still 'twixt the night and day ;

“Why, here’s a new glade now,” I cry ; the designing  
one

Laughs ’twixt the tree-trunks in the old wild way.

Over the Common I’m roaming and roaming then,  
By the secret pathway through bowers of leaves,  
Know all her sweets by heart, the sweet that’s coming  
then,

Think I know it surely, but the witch deceives.

I cry to her face then : “ You shall not deceive me,  
Wearing a new wile ’twixt day and gloam.

For all the disguises your fairy webs weave me

I know the eyes under the hood. Oh, witch, I come.”

Up hill, down hollow, she flies and eludes me,  
Still from the shadow of trees her laughter rings.

With the old dear graces she holds and deludes me,

But she’s a witch too and a bird on wings.

I will say never more, where she mocks to hear it,

“ These are new heavens : I was never here.”

She lays the spell on my eyes, the tricky spirit

Lays the spell on my heart, this Dryad dear.

## THE CHILDREN'S WAY

*To Sissie*

THE children bear our froward mood,  
Patient, enduring still.  
Our anger like a heat in the blood  
That strikes with little skill.

Because our way is choked with tares  
And fears beset our sleep ;  
Because we weary Heaven with prayers  
Lest that the children weep.

The children must be warmed and fed,  
The children most adored :  
Give them this day their daily bread !  
What of to-morrow, Lord ?

Therefore we strike them at their play  
And grieve their hearts and chill :  
O Lord, be patient with the clay  
Thou'st moulded to Thy will.

See, Lord, the children understand !

Loyal and piteous

They take the wounding from Love's hand.

See, Lord,—they bear with us.

## THE ASS SPEAKS

*To Louise Imogen Guiney*

I AM the little ass of Christ,  
I carried Him ere He was born,  
And bore Him to His bitter Tryst  
Unwilling, that Palm Sunday morn.

I was His Mother's servant, I,  
I carried her from Nazareth,  
Up to the shining hill-country  
To see the Lady Elizabeth.

The stones were many in my road,  
By valleys steeper than a cup,  
I, trembling for my heavenly load,  
Went cat-foot since I held it up.

To me the wonderful charge was given,  
I, even the little ass, did go  
Bearing the very weight of heaven ;  
So I crept cat-foot, sure and slow.



Again that night when He was born,  
I carried my dear burdens twain,  
And heard dull people's insolent scorn  
Bidding them to the night and rain.

I knelt beside my Brother Ox,  
And saw the very Birth ! Oh Love !  
And awe and wonder ! Little folks  
May see such sights nor die thereof.

The chilly Babe we breathed upon,  
Warmed with our breath the frozen air,  
Kneeling beside Our Lady's gown,  
His only comfort saving her.

I am beaten, weary-foot, ill-fed ;  
Men curse me : yet I bear withal  
Christ's Cross betwixt my shoulders laid,  
So I am honoured, though I'm small.

I served Christ Jesus and I bear  
His cross upon my rough grey back.  
Dear Christian people, pray you, spare  
The whip, for Jesus Christ His sake.

## THE HAPPY DEAD

*To Mary*

FOR citizens of God's City  
The kind folk have great pity :  
    *Poor girl, she died a year ago, five years ago.*  
While blithe ghosts lingering near them  
With softest laughter hear them,  
    Safe in the bowers of Paradise where roses blow.

The happy souls in heaven,  
Washed white as snow new-driven,  
    In gardens green, by a clear stream, they walk with  
    God.  
Withouten grief or sorrow  
They wait in hope the morrow.  
    To-morrow brings their darlings home by the self-  
    same road.

Oh, what friends and what lovers  
The newly-come discovers :  
    *Life of my life, soul of my soul, you come at last!*  
They shall feed full on kisses,

And more than mortal blisses,  
The hungry days, the lonely ways, over and past.

Should I go there before you,  
I, your love, who adore you,—  
Let us make tryst : I shall wait for you inside the  
gate  
That will open to admit you.  
How I shall meet you and greet you !  
*Heart of my heart, life of my life, you come so late.*

The kind folk who are living,  
'Tis they have pity and grieving,  
And none will listen to her blame : *Poor girl, she's  
dead.*  
Who in the clouds of glory  
Knows parting transitory,  
*Soul of my soul, oh weep no more : be comforted !*

## THE WILD PIGEONS

*To James Stephens*

THE moan of the wild pigeons,  
And the boughs are bare,  
Bids my heart remember  
Friends and days that were.

Moan of the wild pigeons  
Sets my heart to weep.  
Wakens the grief, the sorrow  
Long had drowsed asleep.

Moan of the wild pigeons,  
North Wind and the snow,  
Where the kind ones travelled  
I am fain to go.

They are asleep, the beloved,  
Out in the night and rain.  
The moan of the wild pigeons  
Breaks my heart in twain.

## AFTER COMMUNION

I CARRY now within my breast  
The Son of God ; His rest, His nest :  
As Mary's arms once cradled close  
Her Rose of Heaven, her golden Rose.

I am the stable and the bed,  
The holy hay where He was laid.  
The angels stand at gaze to see  
What wonder hath been wrought on me.

I am the House of Nazareth,  
Where Jesus drew His quiet breath,  
When He was little and a boy,  
His father's light, His mother's joy.

I am the ass went carrying,  
Ere He was born, the Precious Thing ;  
The ass, whereof God's guard did keep  
The four little feet lest they should slip.

I am the room wherein was set  
The Last Supper's most heavenly meat ;  
And I the platter and the cup  
He gave to them when He did sup.

I am the Cross, whereon He lay,  
The rock-hewn grave cold as the clay ;  
But not the garden green wherein  
He talked with Mary Magdalen.

I shine beyond the fairest star,  
More than the constellations are,  
A little while : till He is gone,  
And all my lights die, one by one.

I am naught but common clay, so hard.  
I bring nor balm nor spikenard ;  
Nor fling Him Magdalen's beauteous fleece,  
Nor shed her tears that win heart's ease.

Yet am His Cup : no porcelain fine,  
Nor wrought silver, nor gold ashine :  
His choice : and shining by that bliss  
Beyond the heavenly chalices.

## MENACE

I CAME into your room and spoke.  
Sudden I knew you were not there.  
The easy, common sentence broke  
Against the unanswering air.

My heart shook like a frightened bird,  
And to my ear the terror said,  
Where nothing spoke and nothing stirred,  
*Dear God, if he were dead!*

I heard your footstep in the house,  
Your voice brought comfort to my fear.  
But, fluttering like a frightened mouse,  
My heart beat at my ear.

The room wore its familiar face ;  
On the warm hearth spirted the flame.  
Yet—menace of an empty place—  
*Lord, if he never came!*

## THE VISION

*To Miriam Knight*

THE village shop's back parlour  
Had curtains snowy white.  
The country stretched below it,  
A vision of delight.

Oh, field and farm and coppice  
And shining vale and hill !  
Where sang through scented darkness  
The nightingale his fill.

So white it was, the parlour,  
My heart still made its moan  
That you and I, oh, dear ones,  
Might have it for our own.

Oh, my tall girl who left me,  
And could you stoop so low,  
How I should work to please you,  
And you should sit and sew !



My boy, the world's width from me,  
Should keep the garden trim ;  
And never more go straying  
And take my life with him.

The woman thought me crazy,  
Bereft of sight and speech.  
Nor knew my eyes were seeing  
A heaven beyond my reach.

## THE ABBOT'S PENANCE

*To Father Gilbert Dolan, O.S.B.*

FATHER BENNET, who was our Abbot,  
Praised God after his habit,  
Saw His love in the sun and the dews,  
The dusty road and the holes in his shoes.

He thanked Him in fasting and feasting  
For the greatest good and also the least thing  
The moon and stars, the flowers and fruit,  
The rain and wind and a bleeding foot.

He praised Him for health and for sickness,  
For the oxen's strength and the lamb her meekness,  
For Sleep our sister and Death our brother,  
For Toil and Rest and Darkness our mother.

One day as he said, Laudate !  
For figs and black bread, one of the Frate,  
Vinegar-faced, bade the wine to pass,  
Groaning his Deo Gratias.

Good was Brother Leo at fasting,  
His Lent was all the year, everlasting.  
He ate salt fish with a bitter face  
Even on Christmas and Easter Days.

He said his Hours in the grimmest humour ;  
His ear inclined to tattle and rumour ;  
While others feasted and praised the Lord  
He sat, Death's head at the festal board.

Father Bennet, who oft reproved him  
After a merry fashion, yet loved him.  
"Pax! my brother," he said: "Receive  
A penance from me that thy soul may live.

Pax, my Leo, who pliest unsparing  
Whip and scourge past thy body's bearing.  
Beware at the Great Assize to be  
Lest that thy body complain of thee.

God made the body, golden and ruddy ;  
He made the soul and He made the body :  
Nor would He the soul the body oppress  
Over-much for its weaknesses.

I charge thee by our holy obedience  
That thy body feast on this dish of pigeons.  
Eat of the fruit and drink of the wine  
And praise God with the ass and kine.

Praise Him now for His myriad favours,  
His kind devising of flavours and savours.  
Pax, my brother ; now sit and eat  
And praise the Giver of wine and meat ! ”

Fra Leo ate as the meat was bitter—  
I have the story from Brother Peter—  
Peter our cellarer, palate fine  
For the rightful choosing of Capri wine.

Fra Leo ate : and his visage surly  
Cleared, as you see it at morning early  
When the sun comes out through the shrouding mist  
And the hills are roses and amethyst.

As the starved body was warmed and nourished,  
The pinched soul that was dry and perished,  
Grew, expanded, was kind and throve ;  
Forsaking sourness it turned to love.

Bennet, our Abbot, his soul's in glory.  
He hath joys eternal for transitory.  
Leo, Abbot, grown round and kind,  
Praises God with an equal mind.

## A SONG OF MAY

*To George Russell*

SPEEDWELL and starwort  
In an English May ;  
And to mine own country  
My heart is away.

Sweet was mine own country  
In the days long gone.  
Speedwell and starwort,  
Let me alone !

Ground-ivy purple  
In an English furrow.  
But my heart's yesterday  
Has no to-morrow.

There is wild forget-me-not  
On the English leas :  
My heart is not forgetting  
For those or these.

There is scarlet of poppies  
In the English wheat :  
Mother, when I forget thee  
My rest shall be sweet.

My sleep shall be deep,  
I who told thy praises,  
In the English clay  
Under English daisies.

When I forget thee,  
Land of desire,  
My hands shall be folded  
And my feet not tire.

Speedwell and starwort  
And the wild hedge-rose,  
I am not forgetting  
For these or for those.

Poppies and ground-ivy,  
Shall I sleep so sound  
That I shall not dream of thee  
In the English ground ?

## THE CHILDREN OF HEAVEN

*To Nancy Campbell*

THE night it was jewelled  
That gave Him birth  
With the flight of small angels  
'Twixt heaven and earth.

They were babies rosy,  
Their heads soft-curled,  
They came seeking, small roses,  
The Rose of the World.

Like a shower of starshine  
Or broken suns  
They were rising and falling  
In millions.

When they came to the stable  
Soft was their flight,  
Some Rose Tree in Heaven  
Shook down red and white.



Soft as snows falling  
They settled down,  
Clad the poor stable  
In a rosy gown.

Clad the poor stable  
In gold and silk;  
Their wings and their shoulders  
Were white as milk.

They peeped at the windows,  
Perched on the wall,  
Like birds in the autumn  
When the Southlands call.

And who are these drifting  
As soft as snows,  
For little Christ Jesus  
His playfellows ?

They are hiding and peeping,  
Rosy and pale,  
From the stable's shadows  
And His Mother's veil.

They are pushing and pressing  
By the window-sill;  
Between their wing feathers  
They look their fill.

There's a rustling, a stealing  
Of feet and wings.  
Perched on the manger  
One softly sings.

Come nearer, children,  
And see Him lie  
On the knees of His Mother  
So quietly !

Come all, ye children,  
Nor fear the while  
The frown of His Mother;  
Nay,—see her smile !

The flight of child-angels  
When He was born  
Made the morn of Christmas  
A rosy morn.

## THANKSGIVING

*To May Sinclair*

I THANK God when I kneel to pray  
That mine is still the middle way,

Set in a safe and sweet estate  
Between the little and the great ;

Not troubled with wealth's cares nor yet  
Too poor where needs that cark and fret

Push out sweet leisure and green nooks,  
And give no chance for talk and books.

I take my middle way between  
The mansion and a lodging mean.

My cottage at the country's edge  
Hath sweetbriar growing in its hedge,

Honesty, heartsease and sweet-peas,  
Herb-bennet, love-in-idleness.

Give me a tree, a well, a hive,  
And I can save my soul alive,

Yet be as poor in spirit as  
The Poverello's Lady was.

I covet not soft silk or lace  
Nor any lovely lady's face ;

Nor yet would go in hodden grey ;  
But lawns and wool be my array.

I still may ask a friend to dine  
And set him meat and pour him wine;

Nor count the coins within my purse  
To see that I am nothing worse.

I thank God that my middle place  
Is set amid much pleasantness.

And not too high and not too low  
The safe, untroubled path I go.

## LIGHT

*To Padraic Colum*

As I looked o'er Killiney to the Golden Spears  
The light on the water was there as in old years,  
The light on the water I never saw elsewhere.  
It set 'twixt sea and heaven a jewelled stair,  
A stair into heaven : and I said in my mind  
God's Eyes o'er Killiney looked down and were kind.

As I looked from Killiney away to Wicklow Hill  
The light on the headlands kept rising, falling still :  
All set with fine jewels, a halo for God's hair ;  
The light over Wicklow a cloak for Him to wear.  
I knew that in heaven He smiled and was glad  
For the beauty of His handiwork, the thing He made.

As I looked from Killiney o'er the vales below,  
A cloud as smoke hung steady till the wind should blow.  
And from its lustrous curtain like the Temple veil  
Five streams of light down-pouring lit hill and vale.  
God raised His hand for blessing in the cloud's eclipse,  
Shed the light and the glory from His finger-tips.

## THE CHRISTENING

O CALL the child from some kind saint  
So quick to run and save,  
Not Deirdre with the griefs acquaint,  
Not Grania nor Maeve.

Not Daphne, Phœbe, Phyllis, Prue,  
Nor any country Grace,  
Lest that your gossips prove untrue  
In some most bitter case.

In heaven there stand, carnations fair  
Beside our dear Lord's knee.  
Margaret, Catherine, Magdalen, Clare,  
Dorothy, Cecily.

And all day long in the still place  
Their haloes fall and rise,  
Their faces turned to the one Face,  
The glory on their eyes.

Or give the chrisomed child to keep  
To Mary of the Swords:  
The heart that held God's Son asleep  
Is soft to babes and birds.

The world is set with many a snare  
Where evil things affright.  
Give her a name that she may wear  
Like armour in God's sight.

Give to her little stumbling feet  
A help most sure and kind,  
That when she cries a foot so fleet  
Run to her like the wind.

Give her a name that frights God's foes,  
The name one bears who is  
In God's rose-garden a tall rose  
Among the white lilies.

Give her a friend who will not fail,  
Who walks in white so brave.  
Not Deirdre of the Sorrows pale  
Nor Grania, nor Maeve.

## THE NIGHT COMETH

DEEPER and deeper grows the shade,  
It will be dark ere evening come ;  
Yet shall my heart be not dismayed  
If Thou art with me in the gloom.

What though the faces grow more dim,  
The kind and friendly faces all,  
If Thou, girt by the Cherubim,  
Should'st walk with me at evenfall ?

What though Thy hills die off in mist,  
Thy sky, Thy stars, Thy night, Thy morn—  
Though grey be rose and amethyst  
And of earth's glory I am shorn ?

What if Thy face should rise upon  
My starless night and I should see  
Its beauty more than moon and sun  
Lighting my darkness wonderfully ?



What if this beauteous world Thou'st wrought  
Were but a maze where I should stray  
And lose Thee,—losing Thee have naught !  
Let night fall on Thy world and day ?

Oh, if in clouds of blackest night  
Groping I find Thy fingers kind,  
Thine eyes turn all my darkness light :  
Star of my blindness, be I blind !

## THE PARABLE OF THE RICH MAN

*To Mr. Justice Gibson*

LORD JESUS stood at Paradise gate  
And saw a myriad worlds and stars.  
Oh what is this so desolate  
Clinging to the gold bars ?

The salt spume on its eyes and lips,  
The seaweed tangled in its hair.  
Oh, scourged with bitter thorns and whips,  
What seas have stripped thee bare ?

Lord Jesus bowed His comely head  
With : "What art thou, thou thing forlorn ?"  
"Oh, I am a rich man's soul," it said,  
"That died ere I was born.

By Thine own lips was judgment given,  
Yea, judgment sharper than a sword.  
How shall a rich man enter heaven ?  
Yea, Thou hast said it, Lord."

It was the dead oped lips to cry  
    " How should I save my soul, alas !  
Since easier through the needle's eye  
    The camel's shape should pass ? "

Lord Jesus, Who hath ruth for all,  
    Had pity on the rich man's doom :  
" I can do all things great and small,  
    Yea, give the camel room.

But who is it has hurt thee, say :  
    Made thee one gaping wound and marred  
Out of immortal likeness, yea  
    As I was, marred and scarred ? "

" And knowest Thou not, Lord Christ, this hour,  
    Who knowest all has been, shall be,  
That the great ship, new Babel's Tower,  
    Is sunk beneath the sea ?

The iceberg pierced her monstrous side,  
    As frail as any cockle-shell :  
With a great sob she plunged and died.  
    Oh, Lord, what need of hell ?

The rich men now that went so brave  
Drift 'twixt Cape Race and Labrador.  
Not such as these Thou diedst to save,  
Thou Saviour of the poor.

Not these, not these, Thou diedst to win.  
Thy Passion was not spent for them.  
Have I not purged me from my sin  
Who heard the women scream ? ”

“ Son,—I was there and saw thee die.  
The unstable waters bore Me up,  
Whose hollowed hand can hold the sky,  
Sun, stars, as in a cup.

I, Shepherd of the Ocean, passed,  
Gathered My lambs, gathered My sheep ;  
Saw rich men greatly die at last.  
Yea, what they lost they keep.

That was the door I openéd,  
Narrow and high in Paradise wall,  
That they should die in another's stead  
For Mine, the meek and small.

That which they cast away they save.

They paid their debt in full. One breath,  
Smiled on the innumerable grave,  
Leaped, and found Life, not Death.

Not through the needle's eye may fare

The camel: by a straiter gate  
Naked and scourged, made clean and bare,  
The rich man enters late."

## GORSE

*To W. B. Yeats, who taught me*

MANY a year I loved the gorse on an English common,  
Miles on miles of the golden cups and the nutty wine,  
Cloth of gold for the tramping folk, poor men and  
women ;  
Still my heart said in complaint : It is not mine.

Here's a golden wall each side the hill we're breasting ;  
Never sure was the English gorse as great as this !  
Grapes of gold from a golden vine for the wild bees'  
questing ;  
A world of gold and a pearly cloud on a blue abyss.

There's a golden hill behind us now, gold on the azure,  
The dearest hill like a little breast in gold above.  
The lark springs from a golden bed, spilling his treasure  
Down on the buttercup fields of light and his hidden  
love.

Over the hill we bathe our feet in golden water,  
A little stream the traveller fords, so clear and cold.

But is it May of the leafing—the High King's daughter  
For all her green is under the wave of the flooding  
gold.

Over the hill—the yellow hill, the Spears are showing,  
The Silver Spears are turned to gold o'er the valley's  
haze.

There's a small gold shower on the mountain now and  
the river flowing  
Flows in and out like a ribbon of gold through the  
Milky Ways.

The eager bees plunge to the thighs in a brimming  
chalice,  
Their bag so full of the golden spoils they scarce can  
fly—

The mountain calls to the mountain now, over the valleys,  
“Friend, we are Kings in the house of Kings, you  
and I.”

Here with a heart fed of delight as a bee with honey  
I sit like a miser counting the gold, nor shall repine,  
For the cuckoo's roaming the golden street, blithesome  
and bonny—

My heart says to my heart: Have peace: this  
beauty's thine.

G. W.

*(June 8th, 1913)*

SOLDIER, poet, courtier,  
He was these and more than these.  
He must go to find his peer,  
Over mountains, over seas,  
To some starry world afar  
Where the constellations are.

Traveller from the realms of gold,  
Sidney's brother, Raleigh's twin,  
From this cynic world and old  
Some strange jest hath placed him in,  
Eldorado and the morn  
Unto these he shall return.

Whither goest, adventurer,  
With the East upon thine eyes,  
Stepping with the old blithesome air  
On the last splendid enterprise ?  
Who hast heard the piper play  
Over the hills and far away.



Dear Prince Charming, fair and young,  
'Scaped from sickness and sad age,  
Take a blessing and a song

When thou goest on pilgrimage,  
Where the lark goes, high, on high,  
The white road thou travellest by.



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